

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 \pm , wherein incorporating comprises dissolving the anesthetic in lipophilic base into a volatile solvent.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 \pm , wherein the anesthetic is lidocaine.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16 \pm , wherein said volatile solvent is an alcohol.

5. (cancel)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 \pm , wherein evaporating is carried out until less than 1 wt% of the volatile solvent remains in the solution.

7. (cancel)

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 16 \pm , wherein the anesthetic further comprises a thickener and an emulsifier.

9. (Currently amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprises the steps of:

- a) mixing from about 40-80% of alcohol with a mixture containing:
 - from about 3-40% of lidocaine dissolved;
 - from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, ~~preferably about 1.5%~~
 - ~~thickener~~;
 - from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, ~~preferably about 1.5%~~
 - ~~emulsifier~~; and

the balance being a lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti_Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;

- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution until less than 1 wt% of the volatile solvent remains in the solution;

wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin.

10. (Currently amended) A method of topically anesthetizing an area of the skin, the method comprising:

topically administering a formulation containing an

effective amount of a topical anesthetic dissolved in an effective amount of a volatile penetration enhancer,

wherein the volatile penetration enhancer evaporates from the skin until less than 1 wt% of the volatile penetration enhancer remains in the solution; and

~~wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin leaving a cool sensation on the skin.~~

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is an alcohol.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is isopropyl alcohol.

13. (Currently amended) A method of obtaining topical anesthesia in mammals by way of topical application, said method comprising

administering a formulation comprising a mixture of lidocaine in a lipophilic base dissolved in ~~40-80%~~ 67-80% alcohol, wherein the lipophilic base is selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP.

14. (Currently amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 67-80% ~~40-80%~~

wherein the anesthetic is a eutetic mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 14 ~~±~~, wherein said volatile solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

16. (Previously presented) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 67-80%.

17. (Original) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by dissolving into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494

Amendment F AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3863.015

- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 67-80%.

wherein the homogenous solution includes

from about 40-80% of the volatile solvent:

from about 3-40% of the anesthetic;

from about 0.5 to about 2.0 of a thickener;

from about 0.5 to about 2.0 of an emulsifier; and

the balance being the lipophilic base.